



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

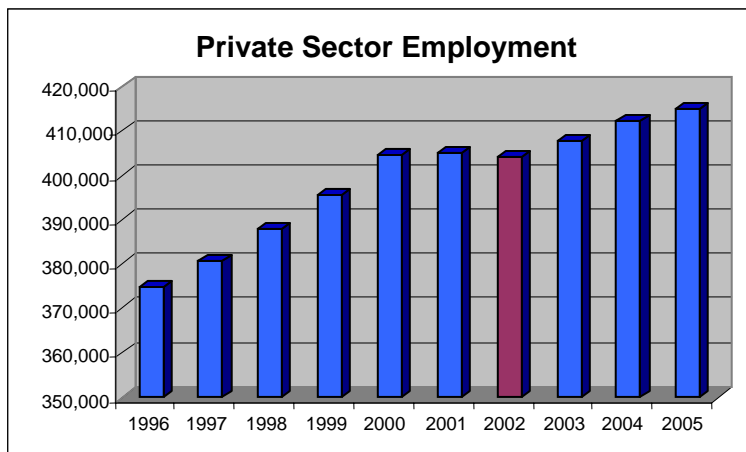
State of Rhode Island

Ten Year Profile 1996-2005



Private Employment

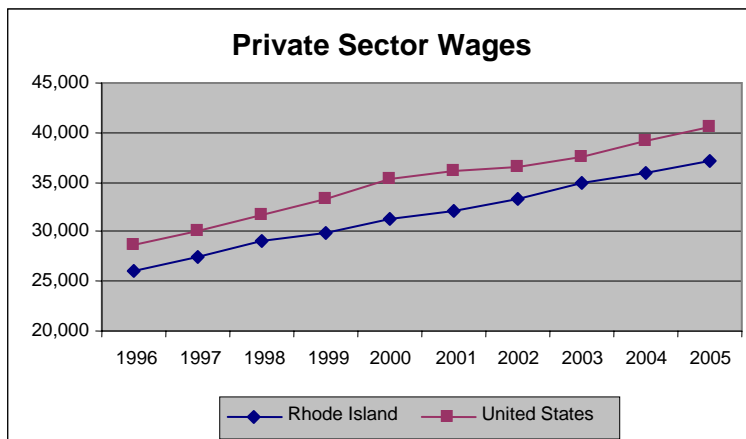
Rhode Island employed 414,907 private sector workers in 2005, representing the largest ever annual employment figure. This is an increase of 40,222 jobs (+10.7%) from 1996 private employment totals. The largest annual job gain during this ten year period occurred between 1999 and 2000, when 9,050 (+2.3%) new jobs were created. The smallest annual employment gain took place the following year, when a modest 250 jobs were added between 2000 and 2001. Annual employment growth in the private sector occurred between 1996 and 2001, with significant gains occurring between 1996 and 2000, when over thirty thousand jobs were created. This four year period accounted for 74.7 percent of the total employment increase during the past ten years. A loss of 891 (-0.2%) jobs was reported between 2001 and 2002, the only annual employment decline recorded between 1996 and 2005.



Rhode Island Employment	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Private Sector	374,685	380,835	387,791	395,670	404,720	404,970	404,079	407,742	412,209	414,907

Wages

In 2005, the average annual private sector wage in Rhode Island was \$37,064, a 41.9 percent (+\$10,940) increase from the \$26,124 earned in 1996. The largest annual wage increase occurred between 2002 and 2003, with workers earning an extra \$1,634 (+4.9%) in 2003. The smallest annual wage increase took place between 1998 and 1999, with the 1999 annual wage rising by \$954 (+3.3%). In comparison, the Rhode Island annual wage in the private sector lagged behind the United States in each of the ten years, with Rhode Islanders earning 9.3 percent (-\$3,435) less than the national average of \$40,499 in 2005.



Private Sector Wages	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Rhode Island	\$26,124	\$27,473	\$28,948	\$29,902	\$31,209	\$32,186	\$33,226	\$34,860	\$35,959	\$37,064
United States	\$28,581	\$30,064	\$31,762	\$33,244	\$35,337	\$36,157	\$36,539	\$37,508	\$39,134	\$40,499

New England Comparison

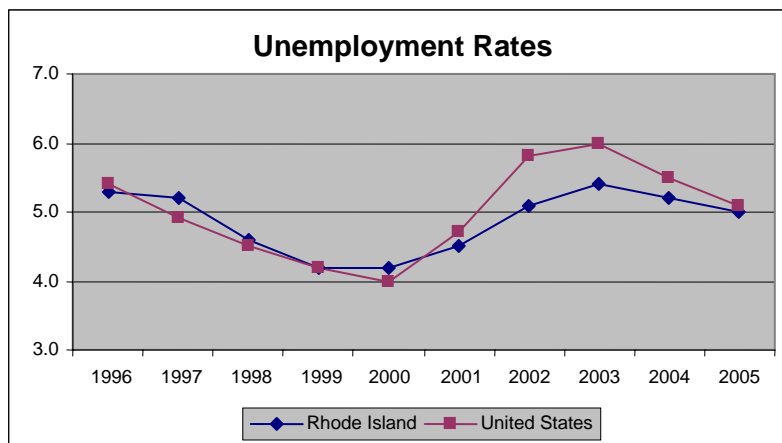
Over the past ten years, Rhode Island average employment increased by 10.7 percent, 3.6 percent higher than the New England average of 7.1 percent. This represents the third largest employment growth on a

New England States	Average Employment				Average Wage			
	1996	2005	Difference		1996	2005	Difference	
Rhode Island	374,685	414,907	40,222	10.7%	\$26,124	\$37,064	\$10,940	41.9%
Connecticut	1,366,658	1,408,834	42,176	3.1%	\$36,439	\$53,689	\$17,250	47.3%
Maine	444,662	495,554	50,892	11.4%	\$23,288	\$32,106	\$8,818	37.9%
Massachusetts	2,591,219	2,757,402	166,183	6.4%	\$33,765	\$50,419	\$16,654	49.3%
New Hampshire	470,453	535,514	65,061	13.8%	\$27,648	\$41,020	\$13,372	48.4%
Vermont	226,933	249,755	22,822	10.1%	\$24,040	\$33,649	\$9,609	40.0%
New England	5,474,610	5,861,966	387,356	7.1%	\$32,130	\$47,138	\$15,008	46.7%

percentage basis, trailing New Hampshire (+13.8%) and Maine (+11.4%). Numerically, 166,183 (+6.4%) new jobs were created in Massachusetts during this decade, the most of all New England states. Between 1996 and 2005, the annual wage in Rhode Island increased by 41.9 percent, 4.8 percent behind the New England average of 46.7 percent. This percentage gain ranks fourth out of all area states. Massachusetts (+49.3%) and New Hampshire (+48.4%) experienced the largest annual wage percentage gain during this period. Connecticut experienced the largest numerical wage increase of \$17,250 between 1996 and 2005, followed by Massachusetts (+\$16,654).

Labor Force

In 2005, the civilian labor force, a count of people 16 years of age and older that live in Rhode Island and are either working or looking for work, reached 569,451, the high mark of the past ten years. There were 28,742 unemployed persons in 2005, resulting in an unemployment rate of 5.0 percent. The lowest unemployment rate between 1996 and 2005 was reported in 1999 and 2000, with a 4.2 percent unemployment rate. The highest unemployment rate during this period occurred in 2003, when there were 30,559 unemployed persons in a labor force of 568,376, resulting in an unemployment rate of 5.4 percent.



In comparison to the nation's unemployment rate between 1996 and 2005, Rhode Island's average annual unemployment rate fell below the national level six out of the ten years, while one year equaled the U.S. unemployment rate. In 1997, Rhode Island's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent was 0.3 of a percentage point above the national average (4.9%), the largest margin during this period. In 2002, the state fell well below the national average unemployment rate of 5.8 percent, reporting 5.1 percent of the labor force unemployed, 0.7 of a percentage point lower than the national average.

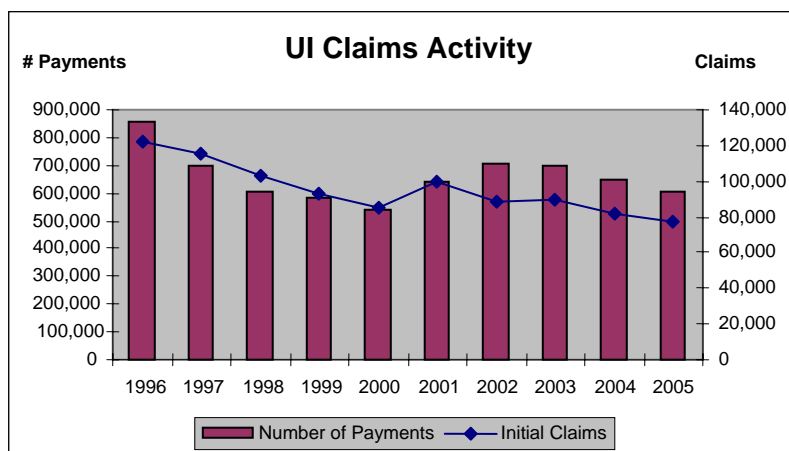
Rhode Island Labor Force*	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	517,429	531,882	534,011	541,407	543,404	545,461	556,240	568,376	562,119	569,451
Resident Employment	489,929	504,147	509,551	518,848	520,758	520,677	528,045	537,817	532,765	540,709
Unemployment	27,500	27,735	24,460	22,559	22,646	24,784	28,195	30,559	29,354	28,742
RI Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.2	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.5	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.0
US Unemployment Rate	5.4	4.9	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.7	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.1

* Not seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is a federal/state program financed through employer payroll taxes and administered by the Department of Labor and Training. The UI program provides temporary income support to workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

Workers who become unemployed file initial claims, which serve as notice that they are beginning a period of unemployment. Claimants who qualify for benefits are counted in the insured unemployment statistics. These statistics, which include initial claims, payments, benefit amounts, and claim durations, are used as economic indicators.



In 1996, there were 122,557 initial claims filed, the largest filing during this ten year period. From 1997 through 2000, the number of claims filed followed a downward trend until an increase occurred in 2001. In 2005, there were 77,799 claims filed, the least amount of filings between 1996 and 2005.

UI Claims Activity	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Initial Claims	122,557	115,594	102,777	93,198	84,767	99,599	88,303	89,198	82,174	77,799
Number of Payments	856,472	694,885	603,966	581,690	536,649	640,088	703,694	695,359	644,534	601,916
Amount of Payments (gross Millions)	\$187.1	\$148.9	\$132.0	\$135.8	\$130.6	\$180.8	\$208.6	\$209.1	\$203.5	\$196.9
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	22,554	17,555	13,611	13,562	12,501	13,581	18,167	18,255	16,151	14,737

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages developed through a cooperative program between the State of Rhode Island and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rhode Island Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, Rhode Island Unemployment Insurance Statistics program.

A Product of: **Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information**

Data subject to revision.

For more RI Labor Market Information, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi

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